

Desert Rifles

Issue 3

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RCO and Sheiks Meet at Palace, Discuss Future

Story by
Spc. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq--Several Iraqi Sheiks from the Al Anbar Governate met with Coalition Forces to discuss plans for the rebuilding of the region. Col. David A. Teeples, Regimental Commander for the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, played host to a large group of Sheiks, government officials and other community leaders in the ruins of the Northern Palace, here.

former regime.

The meeting also served to formally recognize Abel Al Kareem Burgess Alzaldin as the governor of Al Anbar. Along with his new title, Abel Al Kareem was given the authority to "remove anyone from a position of authority if they were deemed a hindrance to the people of the Governate and to replace them via public elections."

Teeples stressed his desire to see the Al Anbar community select these officials independently with little or no involvement from the Coalition Forces.

"So in all of your communities, I need your help to find people to be police officers," said Teeples. He went on to add that, "It is a large job and we need the help of the Sheiks to support the police and the Coalition Forces."

The issues of food and fuel distribution in the region were the last topic of the speech. He then opened the floor to the mayors of the various cities that attended the meeting.

As tribal leaders, the Sheiks' opinion is important in influencing the citizens of the area. Often they are more important in their community than the mayor or other government official. Thus, it was important to gather as many as possible and ask them to sign a denunciation document which stated that they were not and will not have any future association with the Ba'ath Party.

The primary concern for the Sheiks is the lives of their people.

"Over 60 percent of the population is

farmers. We must help them to find markets for their products and we suggest that the Coalition Forces help us to solve this problem," said Sheik Amier.

In order to help the people of Al Anbar, officials spoke of other areas that needed improvement such as roads, bridges, schools and electricity.

The Sheiks suggested the Coalition Forces in the area would be a positive step toward eliminating the violence that has been acted on them by groups throughout the region as well as making the region more secure.

The meeting ended on a positive note with Sheik Majed saying, "We thank everyone for this meeting. It will be regarded as a meeting between brothers and we will work together toward peace and security. We hope to have more of these meetings," a notion seconded by Teeples.

Progress is steadily being made towards a lasting peace in the Al Anbar Governate and the Coalition continues to make every effort to work with the people of Iraq to assist them in rebuilding not only their homes and businesses, but their lives as well.



Photo by Spc. Justin Carmack, 350th MPAD

DENOUNCING--- Those in attendance were asked to sign a document denouncing any affiliation to the Ba'ath Party and the former government ran by Saddam Hussein.

"We are here today to discuss the future and rebuilding of Iraq," said Teeples.

The meeting was designed to cover three main areas: security, government and administration, and community assistance.

Teeples went on to explain that security in the area was the first and most important priority in the region. His discussion of security covered the training and selection of police officers, asking the Sheiks to encourage the people of Al Anbar to turn in any illegal weapons and to aid Coalition Forces in their search for remnants of the

In This Issue:

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- Ar Ramadi Mayor speaks on the progress of 3d ACR

- Photo: Has anyone seen the mail?

- Worldwide news and The Question of the Week

Ar Ramadi Mayor Speaks On Impact of 3d ACR

Story by
Spc. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq--While members of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment have been hard at work ensuring security and peace throughout the Al Anbar Province, local citizens, like the acting mayor, Abel Al Kareem Burgess Alzaldin, have been busy working with the people of the region to rebuild a city devastated by war and a faulty regime.

At the heart of the province is its capital city, Ar Ramadi. This city is steeped in heritage and cultural traditions that trace back thousands of years. "They have their own traditions and customs, and the people are kind and generous," proclaims Abel Al Kareem.

Abel Al Kareem has been the acting mayor of Ar Ramadi for a little over a month, beginning shortly after Coalition Forces entered the area. Yet in this relatively short amount of time, he has worked steadily to improve the living conditions within his city



Photo by Staff Sgt. Douglas Salewsky, 350th MPAD

THE ACTING MAYOR--- Abel Al Kareem Burgess Alzaldin, acting mayor of Ar Ramadi.

and attempted to improve relations between Coalition soldiers and civilians in his area.

"The United States [military] has helped us greatly. They have aided us in thwarting looters and stabilizing the region," says Abel Al Kareem.

Abel Al Kareem notes that only after the region has been stabilized, can the reconstruction of the city truly begin. The 3d ACR troops stationed in the area are working hard. However, ensuring a lasting security throughout the area will take time.

Despite these problems, Abel Al Kareem has worked to improve sanitation facilities, rebuild the hospital infrastructure, initiate elections for several government and civilian positions and reopened a local television station in order to keep the people of the city informed.

"Electricity, water, sanitation, transportation... all are necessary to better the lives of the people. This is something the former regime neglected," says Abel Al Kareem. Thus in an effort to prove that the change has been a positive one for the

"The United States has helped us greatly. Many are still trying to wake up from Saddam's nightmare and start the reconstruction of their city."

-Abel Al Kareem

people of his city, he has placed these issues at the top of his list of priorities.

At the heart of all the operations orchestrated by the mayor lies his desire to see the people of Ar Ramadi succeed and to increase their standard of living.

"Within five years, people will change themselves... people will work, standards of living will improve and they will feel for the first time that they are free," said Abel Al Kareem.

The mayor appreciates the efforts the United States has made toward improving the lives of the people of Iraq and hopes that a lasting relationship with the United States can be attained. Under the Ba'ath party's rule, the people of Iraq were prevented from interacting with the outside world.

"Many are still trying to wake up from Saddam's nightmare and start the reconstruction of their city," states Abel Al Kareem. It is his hope that the United States and other Coalition Forces will continue to aid the people of Iraq as it enters into the international community. When asked about the future of his city, the mayor shows optimism.

"The people of Al Anbar worship their jobs. They are gifted, well educated and are part of a culture that goes back thousands of years. We know that they will be stronger in the future," says Abel Al Kareem.

DOWNTOWN--- The people of post-war Ar Ramadi return to the streets in an effort to reconstruct their lives.



Photo by Spc. Joe Niesen, 350th MPAD

Health Tips From The Regimental Surgeon

By Maj. Blake Graham

As we settle into life in the open air palace, our concerns will change from simple things like whether or not we are about to step in a pile of... stuff, to more complex issues like how to control the bugs or how to keep the snakes and dogs away.

The best protection for troops in any environment is to keep the camp from getting messy. All pests are looking for some sort of easy food source.

If we leave MRE/MKT leftovers lying around or spill crumbs, juices or sauces, we make easy pickings for the pests. The best thing to do is keep food and crumbs out of living areas - or at least swept up. If we make it hard to find food, the pests will go somewhere else.

It goes without saying to keep using bug nets, insect traps, and repellents and take your malaria prophylaxis.

A note on prescription medications: if you take prescription medication of any kind, please request refills 30-45 days in advance.

Medication delivery is complex and takes a lot of time so come in early. My best advice is to bring a prescription bottle to make it easy to order the right medication, dose and amount.

The answer to last week's Question of the Week:

Q: How many hands high is Col. Teeples?

A: Approximately 19 hands high.

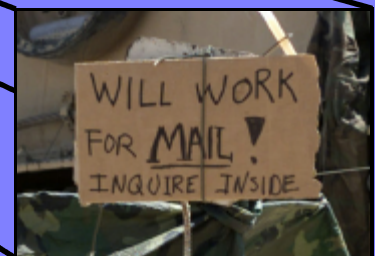
Watch for the Question of the Week in each issue of *Desert Rifles*. Be sure to submit your answers to RCSM Caldwell.

"Triple Threat" PX Hours of Operation

Sunday-	Closed
Monday-	0900-1600
Tuesday	0900-1600
Wednesday-	0900-1600
Thursday-	0900-1600
Friday-	0900-1600
Saturday-	0900-1600



HAS ANYONE SEEN THE MAIL?--- Before the problems involving the mail were fixed, soldiers were desperate for mail. Now, signs like this, which hung on a recovery vehicle in Saber Squadron, are long gone. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Keith D. O'Donnell)



Hard Work Pays Off for 'Killer' Plt. Sgt.

Story and photo
By Spc. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

HIT, Iraq-For soldiers seeking to make a long term career out of the U.S. Army, there are several examples of how hard work and dedication to one's job can and will pay off. Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Hendrex, an armored crewman with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment's 'Killer' Platoon, is one such example.

Hendrex recently made the Army's E-8 cutoff list at the relatively young age of 33. He was surprised when he heard the news and admits that he won't truly believe it until he is pinned with the rank.

Hendrex joined the Army after attending the University of Oklahoma, seeking money to pay off his education.

"When I saw the big tank jumping over the bigger ditch, I knew what I wanted to do," said Hendrex.

Shortly after he joined, he was deployed in support of the Gulf War. Hendrex has been deployed on several missions to include Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia.

Hendrex knew that he wanted to make the Army his career when he made the rank of sergeant. His work as platoon sergeant has only served to confirm his desire. "When you are

a platoon sergeant, you get to see a direct result for your actions instead of being lost in the shuffle," said Hendrex.

The traveling he has done in his military career has been another motivating factor. "I must have seen more than thirty countries in my first three years. What other job could offer that?" says Hendrex.

Like many career soldiers, Hendrex credits his success to the actions of previous platoon sergeants. He feels that by setting a good example for his troops, he will inspire them to do their best.

As to his current deployment, Hendrex feels that it is a good experience not only for himself, but for the younger troops under his command.

"It's good to get the young soldiers working on the ground; it gives them a completely different perspective," said Hendrex.

The work that he and his team are doing is something that he feels will be appreciated by all of those involved.

His current goals involve making it safely through the next couple of months and getting himself and his platoon back home.

When asked if there was anything else he and his troops would like to see in the future of the operation, he simply smiled and said, "Ice, lots of ice, and maybe some Mountain Dew."



BREAK TIME--- Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Hendrex enjoys a brief lunch break.

Rifles Base Gets A 'Triple Threat'

Story and photo
By Spc. Samuel M. Castro
16th Signal Battalion

AR RAMADI, Iraq-The palace complex here has undergone an extreme transformation since the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment arrived. The opulent palace complex that once was home to balls and affluent guests of Saddam Hussein is now the Regimental Headquarters, otherwise known as Rifles Base.

Inside of the war-ruined Grand Hall, there is a room that was once a large lavatory for the guests. Now it is home to the "Triple Threat PX".

Soldiers formed lines extending well outside of the building as they waited for the noon opening, their faces a mix of curiosity and hope. Finally, the time arrived and with as much ceremony as could be mustered, Lt. Col. Brian

Hamilton, commander of the 16th Signal Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron General, of the 16th Sig. Bn., cut a simple orange ribbon, officially opening the new post exchange.

The first soldier to make a purchase was Pvt. William Cardish, who smiled and held up a bottle of Gatorade. "You don't know how long I've been waiting for this."

General stood quietly to the side as soldiers from both 16th Sig. Bn. and 3d ACR filed in.

General became aware that Army and Air Force Exchange Services would not be able to install a post exchange here. However, they would allow him to sign for goods and set up his own store.

He was able to assemble some soldiers to manage the "Triple Threat PX" and



GRAND OPENING--- Lt. Col. Brian Hamilton and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron General cut the ribbon opening the new "Triple Threat PX".

procured resources from both the 3d ACR and its supporting units.

The "Triple Threat PX" sold more than half its inventory in the first day and had to be re-supplied immediately.

The soldiers of Rifles Base now have easy access to sundries, flashlights and things to munch on, all due to the hard work of one command sergeant major, his battalion and their neighbors.

Sports Wrap-Up

Here's a look at the latest standings in the world of major sports.

Major League Baseball

National League East

Atlanta
 Montreal (-2)
 Phil. (-6)
 New York (-11)
 Florida (-13 ½)
Central
 Chicago
 Houston (-1 ½)
 St. Louis (-2 ½)
 Cincinnati (-2 ½)
 Pittsburgh (-7)
 Milwaukee (-8 ½)
West
 San Francisco
 Los Angeles (-2 ½)
 Colorado (-8 ½)
 Arizona (-8 ½)
 San Diego (-16 ½)

American League East

New York
 Boston (-½)
 Toronto (-5 ½)
 Baltimore (-8)
 Tampa Bay (-10 ½)
Central
 Minnesota
 Kansas City (-1 ½)
 Chicago (-5)
 Cleveland (-10)
 Detroit (-16 ½)
West
 Seattle
 Oakland (-3)
 Anaheim (-7)
 Texas (-8)

NHL Conference Finals

Eastern Conference Finals

New Jersey Devils vs. Ottawa Senators

Series tied 3-3

Game 1- Ottawa 3, New Jersey 2 (OT)
 Game 2- New Jersey 4, Ottawa 1
 Game 3- New Jersey 1, Ottawa 0
 Game 4- New Jersey 5, Ottawa 2
 Game 5- Ottawa 3, New Jersey 1
 Game 6- Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1 (OT)

Western Conference Finals

Anaheim Mighty Ducks vs. Minnesota Wild

Anaheim wins series 4-0

Game 1- Anaheim 1, Minnesota 0 (2 OT)
 Game 2- Anaheim 2, Minnesota 0
 Game 3- Anaheim 4, Minnesota 0
 Game 4- Anaheim 2, Minnesota 1

NBA Conference Finals

Eastern Conference Finals

New Jersey Nets vs. Detroit Pistons

New Jersey leads series 3-0

Game 1- New Jersey 76, Detroit 74
 Game 2- New Jersey 88, Detroit 86
 Game 3- New Jersey 97, Detroit 85

Western Conference Finals

Dallas Mavericks vs. San Antonio Spurs

Series tied 1-1

Game 1- Dallas 113, San Antonio 110
 Game 2- San Antonio 119, Dallas 106

87th Indy 500 Starting Grid

1 Helio Castroneves	18 Sam Hornish Jr.
2 Tony Kanaan	19 Buddy Rice
3 Robby Gordon	20 Jaques Lazier
4 Scott Dixon	21 Buddy Lazier
5 Dan Wheldon	22 Robbie Buhl
6 Kenny Brack	23 A.J. Foyt IV
7 Tora Takagi	24 Sarah Fisher
8 Tony Renna	25 Alex Barron
9 Scott Sharp	26 Vitor Meira
10 Gil de Ferran	27 Jimmy Vasser
11 Roger Yasukawa	28 Richie Hearn
12 Tomas Scheckter	29 Billy Boat
13 Michael Andretti	30 Shigeaki Hattori
14 Greg Ray	31 Robby McGehee
15 Shinji Nakano	32 Jimmy Kite
16 Felipe Giaffone	33 Airton Dare
17 Al Unser Jr.	



NASCAR Winston Cup Standings

1.	Matt Kenseth	1619 pts.	1 Win
2.	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1599 pts.	3 Wins
3.	Kurt Busch	1452 pts.	2 Wins
4.	Jeff Gordon	1441 pts.	1 Win
5.	Bobby Labonte	1376 pts.	1 Win
6.	Jimmie Johnson	1372 pts.	0 Wins
7.	Michael Waltrip	1361 pts.	1 Win
8.	Kevin Harvick	1328 pts.	0 Wins
9.	Rusty Wallace	1274 pts.	0 Wins
10.	Sterling Marlin	1259 pts.	0 Wins

The Back Page...

Gen. Tommy Franks retiring after 36 years- General Tommy R. Franks, the Army general who commanded U.S. forces to battlefield victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, has decided to retire after 36 years of service.

Franks announced his intention to step down as U.S. Central Command commander in the coming weeks. There has been no successor named yet.

Court Overturns \$145 billion tobacco ruling- A Florida appeals court reversed a landmark \$145 billion judgment against major U.S. tobacco companies in a resounding victory for the tobacco industry.

The ruling knocked down a July 2000 jury verdict that

held the five largest cigarette companies liable for the illnesses of an estimated 700,000 Florida smokers.

Nichols pleads innocent in OKC bombing- Convicted Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, who has been sentenced to life in prison on federal charges, was arraigned on 162 state murder charges that could bring him the death penalty.

District Judge Steven Taylor entered a not guilty plea on behalf of Nichols because the defendant did not respond when asked how he wanted to plea.

Jacko suffers from 'Reactions to Lawsuits'- Michael Jackson was briefly hospitalized for dehydration after suffering what a Jackson family lawyer called a "reaction to lawsuits".

Jackson, 44, was taken ill in Indianapolis shortly before a scheduled deposition in a copyright lawsuit.

Canada expands frantic search for Mad Cow cases- Canada's frantic search for more cases of Mad Cow disease spread beyond its biggest cattle region as inspectors sealed off several farms and more countries banned Canadian beef.

Yale blast probed- FBI agents combed the first floor of the Yale University law

school building that was rocked by an explosion. Agents produced a composite sketch of a man seen leaving the area just before the blast.

Guatamalan twins return to the U.S.- Two Guatamalan twins joined at the head but separated by U.S. doctors arrived in Los Angeles to receive medical treatment after suffering setbacks to their recovery.

Earthquake in Algeria kills 1,000's- Tens of thousands of Algerians have been sleeping in the open as rescue workers tore frantically at the rubble for survivors from an earthquake that killed over 1,000 and injured over 7,000.

Unmanned drones may patrol borders soon- Unmanned aerial drones similar to the ones used in the war with Iraq could be patrolling the U.S. border by the end of the year to help stem illegal immigration and increase security, according to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

Cavaliers Win Number One Pick, James Lottery- The Cleveland Cavaliers won the top pick in the draft lottery Thursday and are likely to use it next month to claim LeBron James, the most hyped high school player in basketball history.

Broadcast live on nation-

al television, Cavaliers owner Gordon Gund could not hide his delight, breaking out in a broad smile when NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik announced Cleveland would make the first overall selection at the June 26 draft.

Bush Denounces Castro on Cuban Independence Day- President Bush marked Cuban Independence Day on Tuesday by denouncing Cuban President Fidel Castro and expressing hope his rule will soon end.

"My hope is for the Cuban people to soon enjoy the same freedoms and rights as we do. Dictatorships have no place in the Americas. May God bless the Cuban people who are struggling for freedom," Bush said in a message played on U.S.-backed Radio Marti, which is beamed into Cuba.

Question of the Week:

What is the difference between gold and silver spurs?

Submit answers to: RSCM Caldwell in writing with name, rank and section.



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